

COCHISE PINCUSHION CACTUS
(*Coryphantha robbinsorum*)

STATUS: Threatened (51 FR 952, January 9, 1986) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A small, unbranched cactus with no central spines and 11-17 white radial spines. The spine clusters are born on the ends of tubercles (protrusions). The bell shaped flowers are pale yellow-green with a slight bronze cast. Fruits are orange-red when ripe, but quickly turn dull red.

HABITAT: This species grows on gray limestone within the Semidesert Grassland with small shrubs, succulents such as *Agave* species and other cacti, and grama grasses at an elevation of approximately 1,280 m (4,200 ft).

RANGE: Current: Clusters of plants are distributed sporadically on gray limestone hills in Cochise County, Arizona, and the adjacent State of Sonora, Mexico.

Potential: The likelihood of undocumented localities of this species is small. Populations might occur where gray limestone exists in the same geographic area.

REASONS FOR DECLINE / VULNERABILITY: The limited geographic distribution and specialized habitat make this a threatened species. Threats include habitat degradation due to livestock grazing, pesticide applications, and illegal collection. Mining is a potential threat.

LAND MANAGEMENT / OWNERSHIP: Private and state.

NOTES: Protected from international trade by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Also protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law.

Recent analysis of demographic data indicates the population is stable.

A recovery plan for the Cochise Pincushion Cactus was approved in September 1993 and is available online at:

<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/CochisePincushionCactus.pdf>